

## ABSTRACT

A radiographic image reading apparatus to read a radiographic image information from a photostimulable phosphor sheet contained in a cassette performs a read mode to read a radiographic image information held by a photostimulable phosphor sheet and an erase mode to erase the radiographic image information held by the photostimulable phosphor sheet, and comprises a switching section to switch these modes. Thus, a user can select a necessary mode in a short time, and operating efficiency is improved. Moreover, when performing a separation operation and a combination operation of a front panel and a back panel in the apparatus, or delivering the back panel to a sub-scanning section, the apparatus is configured to detect a defect in which the back panel falls, so that the back panel is not destroyed, and also the mechanism of the apparatus is not damaged. Thereby, the reliability of the apparatus is improved.